Indiana County Amateur Radio Newsletter for the Month

January 2013 News Letter

The Following is the annual President Report, as per defined in the by-laws.

In accordance with our club by-laws, **ARTICLE EIGHT: DUTIES OF OFFICERS; SECTION 1; PRESIDENT**, I present the following report for the year 2012.

The officers for the year 2012 where the following:

President ---- Robert Zugates **KB3JOF**
Vice President ---- Larry Freeman **N3LT**
Secretary/Treasurer - Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**

The Board Members for 2012 were the following:

1. Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**
2. Larry Freeman **N3LT**
3. Jerry Kiehl **WB3DUD**
4. Carl Hvozda **N3PIE**
5. Elmer Sorisio **KB3WG**
6. James St.Clair **N3TQR**
7. Robert Zugates **KB3JOF**

Our **ARES Emergency Coordinator for Indiana County** and **Web Master** of the Club Web Site was Robert Zugates, **KB3JOF** .
Our **RACES Officer** (renamed the **ACS** (**Auxiliary Communication Service**)) Terry **KB3JOD**.
Craig Bigler **KB3LBV** was recommended to be an assistant ACS officer.
Robert **KB3JOF** agreed to remain on as an assistant ACS officer.
Our **ARES Net** Coordinator was Terry Carnahan, **KB3JOD**.
At our regular club meetings were held the

first Tuesday of each month at Eat*N*Park in Indiana. The attendance was on average from 12 to15 members per meetings, the same as the previous year .

Our Saturday morning breakfasts were held almost every week at Eat*N*Park in Indiana .

An **ARRL ARES/ ACS** Monday Night Net was conducted every Monday night at 8:00 PM local time on the 146.910 Repeater.

The club stills continuous to support the VE testing was made available as appropriate. Bill McMillen, **N3QM** was the leader. The sessions were scheduled the first Saturday in April and October 2012. Some of the volunteer examiners were: William McMillen, **N3QM**, Larry Freeman, **N3LT**, Dave Dzelsky, **N3DZ**, Dennis Whitson, **KB3LBQ** and Alton Strong, **N3PHL**

The following programs was offered in the past year were :

Programs / Presentations During 2012:

Robert **KB3JOF** would like to have a 2 month notice of the upcoming programs so that he can post the program and its description on the web site.

January presentation - Joe **W3BC** - 'I have a secret ' - Attracting members

February presentation - Larry **N3LT** - Antenna and Feed Line Analysis

March's presentation - Bill Menk **W3LAB** - show-n-tell night for HF/VHF/UHF radios

April ' s presentation - Terry **KB3JO**D - A short demo on the Icom 92AD HT

May ' s presentation -

Robert **KB3JOF** - what ' s in your bag?
June ' s presentation - none
July's presentation - none
August presentation - Tom Stutzman of the Emergency Management Agency
September presentation - Open
October presentation - Harry Bloomberg - **NBEMS** (bring in your laptop and hand held)
November presentation - Dave Hunter **N3YFO** - WAN Repeater System
December presentation - Open

If anyone would like to give a presentation during a club meeting, please contact any of the club officers.

The **Indiana MS Walk** -- April 29th - Indiana Sr. High School (N 5th street)
Connie Myers is no longer the contact person. Sharon O'Keiff (814.696-1017Â (ext. 63301)) is the new contact person.
The MS Walk was a success. We had 10 amateur radio operators working the walk:

Alton **N3PHL**, Ken **AA3IO**, Dave **N3DZ**, Larry **N3LT**, Fred **KM3M**, Robert **KB3JOF**, Bill **K3ZYK**, Roger **N3ULC**, Christine **KB3QJZ**, and Terry **KB3JOD**.

There was over 200 people walking in the MS Walk.

An **ARRL SET** (Simulated Emergency Test)

was conducted on Saturday October 6th this year. There was around 15 check-ins. Net Control was Roger **N3ULC** myself and Terry **KB3JOD**. Thank you Roger and Terry !

Field Day: June 22nd, 23rd and 24th

Field day was very successful. We operated as class 5A. We had 34 CW contacts and 200 phone contacts for a total of 268 QSO points. As a side note we made contacts all sections but 10. The wireless network worked flawless for the logging program (thanks to Dave N3DZ). The balloon worked out well this year. It stayed up for most of the night. The kite for it was not used because there was not enough wind. Our covered dish picnic was well attended with very good food. There was a good turn out of people to set-up on Friday night. There was also a good turn out of people on Sunday for the tear down. Everything was taken down and put away before the rain started. The generator that the EOC let us use was super quiet and provided more than ample power.

I wish to thank Carl **N3PIE**.

for his effort for raising money for the club and the people who attending the fund raisers. Next fund raiser will be December 8 - 6pm at Hoss' (this will also serve as our Christmas party).

Report of the May 19th Red Cross Shelter Drill.
By Robert **KB3JOF**

I was contacted by Harry McFarland of the Red Cross, to see if we could help out with the Red Cross Shelter Drill on May 19th, 2012, between the Dixonville Wesleyan Church Red Cross Shelter, in Dixonville Pa., and the Red Cross Chapter in Indiana Pa. But before giving the details of what we learned I would like to congratulate the following people who made the drill a success and for their help. I wish to thank Terry KB3JOD, who was stationed at the Red Cross Center in Indiana County Red Cross, Pa. Next I would like to thank Chris KD0HUZ, for his help and the use of his cross band radio, who was stationed on the hill in the back of the church, being the go between Dixonville Wesleyan Red Cross Shelter and the Indiana Red Cross in Indiana. Last but not least I would like to thank Elmer KB3WG for his technical support and suggestion on the simplex frequency (444.975) to use during the drill. He saved me a lot of research and provided other help full information also. The Dixonville Red Cross shelter is located down in the hollow of the surrounding mountains. I found this out when I went out several days before the drill. I tried to hit the Indiana 146.910 repeater. I would not bring up the repeater. I brought this up before the next club meeting and one of the suggestions was cross banding, which is using a mobile radio as a go between the hand held and the fix repeater to provide communications. After some struggle, Chris got the cross band working and we had a connection. We did pass some traffic and learned

a lot.

Recommendations for the following procedures for next time:

1. Set up the UHF frequency before the mobile repeater goes up on higher ground.

2. Use an unused UHF frequency on simplex. Ex: 444.975 simplex.

3. Lock the frequency on the hand-held, to prevent frequency change.

4. Remember to use slash R after your call sign, showing that you are using a mobile repeater. Ex: KB3JOF/R

5. Key the hand held and wait a few seconds for the mobile repeater to key up the main repeater then

speak and wait for the repeater to drop when released.

UPJ ---- IEEE Winter 2011 Antenna Design and Fox Hunt

A fox hunt was held at UPJ in Johnstown on December 3rd. The fox frequency was 434MHz. A good time was had by all. Ken AA3IO was the first to find the fox.

Jimmy Stewart Airport Festival Saturday June 9th

Craig **KB3LBU**
Several hams were present for the pancake breakfast and tour of the airport by Jack Zimmer. Our future ham, Eon, got an airplane ride.

Thursday Nite Round-About:

A group has been getting together on Thursday nights around 9:30pm for some CW code practice. Everyone is welcome. Everywhere from 3 words per minute to 12 words per minute.

Monday Nite NBEMS Practice:

A group has been getting together on Monday nights around 9:00pm on the 146.91 repeater for some NBEMS practice using fldigi with MT63 - 2000 operation mode. Everyone is welcome to join in.

ACS update:

As most people know ' Hurricane/Tropical storm Sandy ' created a lot of devastation on the east coast. Luckily most of Western PA was spared from the worst of the storm. There was a lot of radio

activity on the 2 meter WAN system (145.10 pl 123, 146.940 pl 123, and 146.835 pl 123). There was also a lot of activity on 80 meters (3.993,50 LSB). Digital messages were also being passed on 80 meters (3.583.00 USB) using 8/500 Olivia.
Our local A.R.E.S and R.A.C.E.S. was not called into activation, but we were geared up and ready if the need arose.
This storm event really accentuated the need to have an up to date phone tree in place. Therefore, we will be working on a new phone tree for Indiana County A.R.E.S and ACS asap.

In conclusion , I wish to thank the members and other amateur radio operators for their help and involvement in the club activities. I am pleased to report that and hope more members and non-members will get involved in the Thursday Night Round-About Group and the Monday Night NBEMS Group.
If anyone has any ideas about any activities please see any officers of the club.
A **Merry Christmas** and an very **Happy New Year** to all.
Robert Zugates
President of the **ICARC**.

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Agenda for December 4 th, 2012

President - Robert Zugates **KB3JOF**
Vice President - Larry Freeman **N3LT**

Secretary/Treasurer- Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**

Board Members for 2012:

1. Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**
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Larry **N3LT** called the meeting to order at 7:36
Approval of meeting minutes for November 6th, 2012 as posted on the web site:

Phil **K3PJ** Moved to accept the minutes as posted.
Dave **N3DZ** Seconded the motion.
Motion was voted on and passed.

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Financial Report:
Terry **KB3JOD**

Opening balance For November 2012 was announced. Electric Bill -$33.00
WPA Repeater Council -$15.00 (for the 146.91 repeater)
50/50 drawing +$10.00
Membership Dues +$10.00
Closing balance for November was announced.

Carl **N3PIE** made a motion to accept the financial report
Phil **K3PJ** seconded the motion
The motion to accept the financial report was passed

Monday Night Net update: (146.91MHz - 20:00)

If you are interested in being a Net Control Station, please contact the Net Coordinator Terry **KB3JOD** by email at carnahanterry@gmail.com or by phone at 724-388-3826.

Information:

Rusty **WB3EUQ** - contact information Larry N3LT reported that Rusty was at the Saturday Breakfast November 24th. He looked good but is having trouable getting around. Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a

Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital.
He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for the unit he is in is (814) 696-5248. The phone, its cordless, is right across from his room at the nurse's station. You may call at any time. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone number, contact Larry **N3LT**.

Rusty's mailing address is :
David O'Donnell (David is his actual name)
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

When you go: when you come to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk - they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.

VE Testing:

The next VE testing is Saturday April 6, 2013
It is listed on the **ARRL** web site.

Fund Raisers: Carl **N3PIE**

Next Hoss's fund raiser, December 8 (Christmas party).
We need to exceed $300 in orders to receive the 20% return. If we exceed $1200 in orders we will receive a 25% return. Unfortunately this year, gift cards will not count towards the return.
Carl handed out some cards during the meeting. Cards will also be available at the Saturday breakfast.
We will be located in the front room (not the music room). We will gather around 6:00 pm there.
Hoss's needed a estimated number of people. After a discussion, it was decided that we tell them between 40 and 50 people.

Thursday Nite Round-About:

A group has been getting together on Thursday nights around 9:30pm on 3.5685MHz for some CW code practice. Everyone is welcome.

Anywhere from 3 words per minute to 12 words per minute.

Monday Nite NBEMS Practice:

A group has been getting together on Monday nights around 9:00pm on the 146.91 repeater for some NBEMS practice using fldigi with MT63 - 2000 operation mode. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Fox Hunt:

Bill K3ZYK sponsored the fox hunt for one of his electronics classes at UPJ. Larry N3LT reported that there were three groups of students that participated. No external Ham operators showed up. Larry N3LT mentioned that we need to organize another fox hunt. It is thought that Bill K3ZYK is still in possession of our fox, since his group was the last to find it.

Repeater Update:

Jim Knox donated two Station Master commercial grade antennas to our club to replace our repeater dual band antenna that was damage last year in a storm. Elmer **KB3WG** and Larry **N3LT** are working on retuning 2 meter antenna to the 146.91 frequency (it was originally designed for 152 MHz band). The other antenna was originally designed for the 480 MHz band, so it will also require retuning. In order to take the antenna apart, they had to cut the brass end cap that is at the top of the antenna. Phil **K3PJ** is going to try and get a piece of brass turned down to use as a new end cap. The antenna is constructed of Â¾ inch copper tubing inside of a fiberglass tube. Larry asked if they should continue working on the antenna or should we purchase a new antenna. After a discussion, it was decided that the modification to the antenna should continue.

BUSINESS:

Club's Officer Nominations and Election:

Current Officers:

President: Robert Zugates **KB3JOF**

nominations: no nominations

V. President: Larry Freeman **N3LT** (because of health issues Larry would like to resign)
nominations: no nominations

Sec. / Trea.: Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**
nominations: no nominations

Net Coordinator: Terry Carnahan **KB3JOD**
nominations: Roger **N3ULC** said that he will think about taking over for Net Coordinator.

Larry N3LT said that he will stay on temperately until someone steps up for the V.P. Position.
Alton **N3PHL** made a motion to maintain the current slate of officers for 2013.
After a discussion Carl **N3PIE** seconded the motion.
The motion was voted on and passed.

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50/50:

Craig **KB3LBU** won the 50/50 drawing. A total of $10.00 was collected.
Craig donated $4.00 of the winnings back to the club.
Larry **N3LT** adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm

Meeting Attendance:

(x) Roger Bartlebaugh - **N3ULC**
(x) Christine Bartlebaugh - **KB3QJZ**
(x) Craig Bigler - **KB3LBU**
(x) Terry Carnahan - **KB3JOD** (secretary/Treasure)
(x) Larry Freeman - **N3LT** (Vice President)
(x) Carl Hvozda - **N3PIE** (Board member)
(x) Phil Kopczyk - **K3PJ**
(x) Elmer Sorisio - **KB3WG** (Board member and Repeater Trustee
(x) Alton Strong - **N3PHL**

December Birthdays:

Cliff Miller KB3AGT 12/02
Alphonse Fister **N3ZFZ** 12/05
Bill Wieserman **K3ZYK** 12/09
Robert Zugates **KB3JOF** 12/11
Bill McMillen **N3QM** 12/29

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